

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, Sandown
New Hampshire

Regular Meeting
March 17, 2011
7:30 PM

SAU 55 Office
Plaistow, NH

Order

Madam Chair Aubrey called the meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:30 pm.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

Mrs. Aubrey, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Kosta, Mr. Mascola, Mr. Paone, Mrs. Steenson, Mrs. Withee and Mr. Briggs (Student Representative)

Absent

Mr. Porcelli

Administrators Present

Mr. La Salle, Superintendent
Mr. Feneberg, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Smith, Assistant Business Administrator

Pledge

Madam Chair Aubrey led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Withee, seconded by Mrs. Kosta

Voted: To approve the minutes of the March 3, 2011 regular meeting as written. **Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried 7-0-1** (Mr. Bealo abstained).

Delegations and Individuals

Student Council Report

Community Agent Nick Delfino reported on all the fun students had during "Spirit Week." He reported the next Kids Night Out is scheduled for Saturday the 26th of March. Another regional meeting for the Student Council members will be held on Tuesday, April 12th.

Timberlane Regional School Board Student Representative

Mr. Briggs reported students enjoyed Spirit Week and the Wrestling Team won the New England Title for the fourth straight year. Mr. Briggs inquired how parents and students were notified of the progress reports are online now. Madam Chair Aubrey noted that parents were notified by messages from AlertNow and PowerSchool. The high school will provide a printed copy at the parents' request.

Current Business

Review of Election Results

Mr. La Salle presented the March 8, 2011 election results. He noted the 2011-2012 budget, capital reserve fund, Pollard School kitchen renovation and general acceptance of reports passed in all four towns.

He congratulated Mr. Mascola from Atkinson and Mr. Collins from Danville on their re-election to the School Board. He welcomed Mr. Bealo from Plaistow and congratulated him on his election to the School Board.

He announced Mr. Ranlett was elected School District Moderator and congratulated Mrs. Lisi from Sandown on her re-election to the Budget Committee. He welcomed Donald Cook from Danville and congratulated him on his election to the Budget Committee.

Policies

In consideration of Mr. Bealo, the new board member, the board was presented the option to postpone the

second reading and adoption of the ten policies scheduled this evening. This would, allow time for Mr. Bealo to familiarize himself with the policies before he votes on them. Mr. Bealo explained that he is familiar with the policies and chooses to move forward.

Mr. Feneberg presented the following policies for second reading and adoption:

- DBI BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION
- DEB REVENUES FROM STATE AND FEDERAL TAX SOURCES
- DG DEPOSITORY OF FUNDS
- DGA AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE/CHECK-WRITING SERVICES
- DH BONDED EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS
- DID FIXED ASSETS (INVENTORIES)
- DJC PETTY CASH ACCOUNTS
- IIB CLASS SIZE POLICY
- JJIC ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY
- KB TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

On a motion by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mrs. Kosta

Voted: To agree to separate out policy JJIC Athletics/co-curricular Activities Eligibility and move the other nine policies for consideration of the second reading and adoption.

Discussion: Mr. Bealo noted that he has some concerns regarding the wording in policy IIB Class Size Policy and noted that he would like to see some wording changes made. He referred to the beginning of the policy stating he would like to see stronger wording.

On a motion to amend by Mr. Bealo, seconded by Mr. Collins

Voted: To amend the motion on the floor to include separating out policy IIB Class Size Policy from the group and consider the remaining eight polices.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried unanimously 8-0-0 amending the motion on the floor.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the amended motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Kosta, seconded by Mr. Baldwin

Voted: To approve the second reading and adoption of policies

- DBI BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION
- DEB REVENUES FROM STATE AND FEDERAL TAX SOURCES
- DG DEPOSITORY OF FUNDS
- DGA AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE/CHECK-WRITING SERVICES
- DH BONDED EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS
- DID FIXED ASSETS (INVENTORIES)
- DJC PETTY CASH ACCOUNTS
- KB TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

The discussion on the other eight polices began with DJC- Petty Cash Accounts. Mr. Bealo was surprised at the low amount. Mr. La Salle explained the petty cash accounts are for emergency purposes only and not for everyday use. He presented an example of purchasing stamps and that a receipt is created and presented to the petty cash account for reimbursement. The auditors review each transaction.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Kosta, seconded by Mr. Bealo

Voted: To accept the second reading and adopt policy IIB – Class Size Policy as written.

The discussion began on policy IIB-Class Size with Mr. Bealo noting that he would like to see the language reflect a stronger message. Mr. La Salle noted the district does not exceed class size policy, if that was considered, he would seek the approval of the board. Mr. Bealo noted that in the first paragraph it was noted that parent groups and communities have discussed the issue; he inquired if the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) had been notified of this proposed change to the policy. Mr. La Salle clarified the PTA at each school was not notified.

Mr. Baldwin suggested replacing the word recommends with the word “sets” so the sentence would read “the Board sets the following class size....”

On a motion to amend by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Bealo

Voted: To amend policy IIB by removing the last eight words of the first paragraph and replacing the word recommends in the third paragraph with “sets.”

Mr. Collins inquired why parent groups would be excluded from the discussion of class size. Mr. La Salle clarified historically the initial team included parent group and other members of the communities for research and community involvement and the initial process is noted in the original policy. Mr. Baldwin noted class size is an administrative decision.

Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Bealo withdrew their motion to amend the motion on the floor.

Mrs. Kosta and Mr. Bealo withdrew their motion to accept policy IIB for a second reading and adoption.

On a motion by Mrs. Kosta, seconded by Mr. Baldwin

Voted: Agree to send policy IIB –Class Size to the policy committee for further review. **Having no further discussion, Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.**

On a motion by Mrs. Kosta, seconded by Mrs. Withee

Voted: To approve the second reading and adopt policy JJIC Athletics/Co-curricular Activities Eligibility.

Mrs. Kosta stated her appreciation of the work performed by the Policy Committee and Mr. Fantasia in their consideration of the policy. She reports that this policy now provides support to student before they fail.

Mr. La Salle recapped the recent history of policy JJIC; he then suggested a work session might be a better venue for a free flow conversation. He recommended the work session for the board which could include the orientation of the newest member Mr. Bealo and the anti-bully training required by law.

Mr. Baldwin stated he does not want a policy in place that would allow students to fail. He agrees with the method to academically support all students. But, he refuses to compromise on allowing failure. He stated academics come first and sports should follow which would prepare students for the real world. He suggests changing the wording before approving this policy.

On a motion by Mrs. Steenson, seconded by Mr. Mascola

Voted: To agree to place on the TRSB work session agenda Policy JJIC – Athletics/Co-curricular Activities Eligibility committee for further discussion.

Mr. Collins stated he would like to discuss policy JJIC now, make changes if necessary and approve the policy since it has been in the process of change for two years and since there has not been any votes taken, there is no way to know if we have a deadlock or if the policy could pass.

Having no further discussion, Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried 6-2-0. (Mr. Collins and Mrs. Steenson opposed.)

Committee Assignments

Madam Chair Aubrey requested board members submit their request for committee membership to her via email. Mrs. Steenson inquired if members had to stay on the same committee each year. Madam Chair Aubrey noted that no protocol is in place and each member should submit their preference for a committee to her.

Board Training

Mr. La Salle reported that Board policy BIA provides that new board members be offered orientation session(s) that cover NH Laws pertaining to education, DOE policies and regulations, board policy handbook, financial accountability requirements, curricula and educational program, school administration, employment contracts and benefits and more. He asked the board if they would like any specific topics to discuss at the training. Mr. Collins requested a list of topics to choose from. Madam Chair Aubrey requested each member access “Dootle Pool” to enter their preference of days for a work session so she can schedule

the session as soon as possible.

Administrators Report

Mr. La Salle provided a report on current proposed legislative action that could negatively impact the district in the 2011-2012 school year.

He stated the historical process of State Adequacy Aid and how the State and the Obama Administration changes have affected the amount the district will receive in State aid.

Mr. La Salle then reviewed the potential State budget impact to revenue and the negative effect on the district budget if the State refuses to assume or continuously reduce their portion of the New Hampshire Retirement System appropriations; he noted that the current rates were set by the State and by State law have to be paid.

He reported that when the budget was presented and approved by the voters at the Deliberative session these legislative proposals were not in place; the district must now spend within the terms of the budget despite the funding shortfall. He then outlined seven strategic options the administration would consider to reduce the budget as needed if legislative actions negatively impact the district.

Mr. La Salle noted that this could mean losing many good young teachers; he recommended the Board approve for this school year an extension to the time staff would have to submit a retirement notification to the district. He would like the date extended to April 15, 2011 allowing staff that may choose to retire in light on the many proposed changes to retire before they are negatively affected.

On a motion by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Kosta

Voted: To approve extending deadline under Section 13.2 of the Timberlane Teachers Association Agreement for the 2010-2011 school year to April 15, 2011.

A brief discussion ensued.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion passed 8-0-0.

Mr. La Salle reviewed their careful analysis of class size and how it affects reduction in staff. He requested the board allow the Superintendent to use his discretion when deciding on classroom size for the 2011-2012 school year only. He explained that due to reduced enrollment elementary teachers may add one or two students to their class room if that would mean retaining a biology teacher at the high school or middle school.

On a motion by Mr. Mascola, seconded by Mrs. Steenson

Voted: To agree to allow the Superintendent to exceed the class size stated in Policy IIB for the kindergarten to fifth grades for the 2011-2012 school year.

Mr. Collins asked if all considerations have been considered before exceeding set class sizes. He provided an example of changing the Athletic and Band programs to "Pay to Play" programs. Mr. La Salle explained the complex issues that surround "Pay to Play" programs and the time necessary to organize the logistics of that type of revenue. Mr. Feneberg noted that the monies raised by the "Pay to Play" programs would be considered revenue and could not be used for appropriations. Mr. La Salle explained the money from the Pay to Play programs would be considered unanticipated revenue and would go back to the taxpayers; it cannot be used to reduce other expenditures.

Mr. Withee inquired if the number of buses could be reduced by combining the middle and high school students together. Mr. La Salle informed the board the district utilizes software to expedite the buses and the problem would be that most students choose to ride the bus only *sometimes*.

Mr. Collins requested a report to show the proposed changes; Mr. Mascola stated the board does not need to decide which staff is to be issued a pink slip since that decision would best be made by Mr. La Salle.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion to allow the Superintendent to exceed the class size stated in Policy IIB for the Kindergarten to Fifth Grade for the 2011-12 school year passed 8-0-0.

Personnel

Mr. Feneberg recommended accepting the resignation of Thomas Beglinger and Alian Purba both TRHS Mathematics Teachers.

On a motion by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mrs. Withee

Voted: to accept the resignations of Thomas Beglinger and Alian Purba.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion passed 7-0-0. (Mr. Collins was not in the room while the vote was taken.)

Mr. Feneberg then recommended the one year childrearing leave of absence for Sandra Allaire, TRHS French Teacher.

On a motion by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mrs. Withee

Voted: to approve the one year child rearing leave of absence for Sandra Allaire.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion passed 8-0-0.

Connor Briggs (Student Representative) acknowledged his appreciate of Mrs. Allaire and thanked her for her years of consideration and patience.

Committee and Reports of the School Board

None

Vendor and Payroll

Done

Correspondence

Reviewed

Other

With no further business, Chairwoman Aubrey adjourned the meeting at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Danahy
School Board Clerk