

Timberlane Regional School Board

Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow and Sandown
New Hampshire

Minutes of the Deliberative Session February 4, 2010

Call to Order

At the Timberlane Performing Arts Center., Moderator Barry Sargent called the February 4, 2010 Deliberative Session to order at 7:05 PM. then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Sargent introduced the Timberlane Regional school Board members in attendance: Lori Aubrey, Arlene Champey, Robert Collins, Elizabeth Kosta (Chair), Michael Mascola (Vice Chair), John Paone, Louis Porcelli and Lisa Withee. Absent: William Baldwin

Moderator Sargent then introduced the Budget Committee members in attendance: Charles Balanoff (Chair), Len Mullin (Vice-Chair), Michelle O'Neil, Catherine Rochford, George Murray, Jr. Hardave Dhaliwal and Brenda Copp.

Others present: Richard La Salle, Superintendent of Schools, George Stokinger, Business Administrator, Peter Bronstein, District Legal Counsel, Helen Phinney, District Clerk and Nancy Danahy, School Board Clerk and Director of Human Resources, Kathleen Smith, Budget Committee Clerk and Assistant Business Administrator.

Moderator Sargent reviewed the rules of the assembly for the public and the handouts provided for all residents.

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

Richard La Salle	Superintendent of Schools
George Stokinger	Business Administrator
Peter Bronstein	District Legal Counsel
Kelli Killen	Director of Elementary Education
Scott Strainge	Director of Secondary Education
Edwina Lovett	Director of Pupil Personnel
Elizabeth Rincon	Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel
Michelle Auger	Principal – Pollard
Douglas Rolph	Principal-Sandown Central
Michael Hogan	Principal _ Timberlane Regional Middle School
John Holland	Director of Technology
Anthony Di Bartolomeo	Director of Music
James Hughes	Director of Facilities
Linda Heuer	Technology Coordinator
Robert Dawson	Assistant Principal-Evening Division

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

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

Moderator Sargent reviewed the process of the voter cards and amendment of articles; he explained the rules of debate and what is expected of each person wishing to speak at this meeting. He then reviewed the process for a secret ballot stating that five registered voters would need to submit their request in writing prior to the article being considered. He clarified that he will be using Roberts Rules of Order as a guide at this Deliberative Session. He informed the public that after a vote is taken a register voter may request restriction and reconsideration of that specific article. This means that the issue cannot be revisited at the meeting. All requests for warrant article changes must be submitted in writing and the 10% rules does apply, which means that the budget presented this evening by the budget committee cannot be changed by more than 10% overall.

Moderator Sargent then read the first and second session of the annual meeting, noting each town's voting times and locations. The voting times on March 9th, 2010 were clarified; Danville, Plaistow and Sandown polling locations will be open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm with Atkinson polling location from 7:30 am until 7:30 pm.

Review of the proposed Warrant and 2009-2010 Budget

Articles One – Election of Officers

Moderator Sargent outlined the Election of Officers that will be voted on March 9th, 2010. He noted that Danville, Plaistow and Sandown will elect one school board member each. The budget committee members that are scheduled for election are one Danville member, two Plaistow members one for a two-year term the other for a three-year term, and two Sandown members one for a two-year term and one for a three-year term.

Article Two – Operating Budget

Moderator Sargent read article two:

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 **\$61,764,677**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be **\$61,838,543** 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 2 (the operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed under any other warrant articles. (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

Recommended by the School Board 6-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-2

The moderator then introduced Mr. Balanoff who presented the proposed operating budget that voters will consider in March. He noted the proposed budget of \$61,764,677 and the default budget of \$61,838,543 and that the operating budget is less than the default budget. He noted the major budget factors including the increase from last year for salaries and benefits, instruction related costs, facilities and other programs. Resident Mark Acciard from Atkinson asked for clarification on specific line items and then inquired about the budget process. Mr. La Salle and Mr. Stokinger reviewed the budget process. Mr. Acciard inquired about the public hearing process which was clarified by Mr. La Salle.

A motion by Mr. Mark Acciard, Resident of Atkinson to amend the 2010-2011 operating budget by reducing it to \$56,760,388 seconded by Mr. Len Mullin, Vice-Chair of the TRSD Budget committee.

A discussion ensued. Mrs. Kosta inquired how the reduction would affect the school district. Mr. La Salle noted a long list of cuts that would equal the approximate reduction to the operating budget that Mr. Acciard is proposing.

Mr. Acciard then explained that he used the current budget year expenditure then added a percentage of increase according to the national average to arrive at the amended \$56,760,388 budget. Mr. La Salle noted to just cut \$5.7 million from the operating budget is a random figure since the current budget year is only half way complete and we have another five months before the end of the fiscal year. The logic used by Mr. Acciard is unsound.

A motion by Mr. Shawn O'Neil, Resident of Danville to move the question, seconded Michelle O'Neil. No discussion allowed on a motion to move the question.

Moderator Sargent then called for a voice vote on the amendment to reduce the budget to \$56,760,388. The motion failed.

Ms. Hurni, Atkinson resident, voiced her disappointment in the budget since she has not received a raised in two years, Mrs. Cobb, Budget Committee representative from Sandown stated she believes that a surplus is when taxpayers are overcharged.

Mrs. Cobb, Budget Committee member from Sandown left the meeting.

Mr. Acciard from Atkinson stated his disapproval of the education provided by this district once students reach the middle school. Mr. O'Neil from Danville stated that each town /district is audited each year and all surplus must be returned to the taxpayers as is normal procedure. He provided an example of when insurance rates come in lower than what is estimated then that is a surplus; but if the estimate comes in at the estimated rate then the monies is in the budget for this expense.

Mr. Dube, Plaistow resident and teacher in the district stated that all the teachers in the district worked long, hard hours educating students. They are in the schools at 6:00 am and leave on the average around 8:00pm. The quality of education they provide is outstanding and that the blogs should reflect that information.

Additional residents inquired about the budgeting process and Mr. Mullin, Danville resident and Budget Committee Vice-Chair stated he voted against the budget because he had requested additional information that was not provided. Furthermore, he had not personally prepared the budget.

Moderator Sargent asked that the session address the operating budget and not to attack anyone personally or professionally. Mr. Stokinger clarified the voting of the budget committee in recommending or not recommending the operating budget.

Mrs. O'Neil addressed the salary increase of the administrative staff and the increase in co-pay as well as the percentage of cost to administrators and the salary average in the surrounding districts.

Having to 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 Elizabeth Kosta. The motion passed by voice vote.

Article Three

Moderator Sargent read article three:

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Timberlane Teachers' Association and the Timberlane Regional School Board, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

Cost Distribution

	2010-2011	2011-2012
	Year 2	Year 3
Salaries (step <15 years service)	\$414,184	\$792,444
Longevity	\$6,000	\$87,900
1-Time 2.5% Payment (step >14 years service)	\$256,919	(\$256,919)
*Insurance	(\$173,955)	0
Professional Development	0	\$2,500
FICA	\$51,798	\$47,692
NH State Retirement	\$54,337	\$50,030
TOTAL	\$609,284	\$723,646

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$609,284 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

** (The cost of the current insurance plan, as required by law, is budgeted in the 2010-11 operating budget. The negotiated contract includes an increase from a ten-dollar to twenty-dollar co-pay and an increase to the teachers' portion of the insurance premium that results in a reduction of health insurance costs by \$173,955 in Year 2 and increased savings to the district in Year 3 as shown above.)*

Note: Pursuant to RSA 273-A:12, if approved, the terms of this collective bargaining agreement, including the pay plan, but excluding cost of living increases, will continue in force and effect until a new agreement is executed.

Recommended by the School Board 6-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-1

Mr. La Salle reviewed the cost for each year of the proposed teacher's contract, clarifying how the figures were calculated since 2010-2011 would be the second year of the contract. He noted the retirement of the most expensive insurance plan and the increase of the co-payment to reduce the cost of the insurance benefit.

A motion by Elizabeth Kosta to approve as written article three, seconded by Mrs. Champey. The motion passed by a voice vote.

The moderator solicited questions and comments, having none he directed article three be placed on the ballot as written.

A motion by Michelle O'Neil to restrict reconsideration of article three, seconded by Mrs. Sherman, Atkinson resident. The motion passed by voice vote.

Article Four

Moderator Sargent read article four:

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the Timberlane Regional School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 cost items only? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

(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 6-0

The moderator solicited questions and comments, having none he directed article four be placed on the ballot as written.

A motion by Michelle O'Neil to restrict reconsideration of article four, seconded by Katherine Rochford. The motion passed by voice vote.

Article Five

Moderator Sargent read article five:

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate up to **\$100,000** 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, 2010 undesignated fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

(The funds for this article come from the 2009-2010 school budget surplus, not from additional taxes.)

Recommended by the School Board 6-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-0

The moderator solicited questions and comments, having none he directed article five be placed on the ballot as written.

A motion by Michelle O'Neil to restrict reconsideration of article five, seconded by Katherine Rochford. The motion passed by voice vote.

Article Six

Moderator Sargent read article six:

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$225,000 to renovate the kitchen at Atkinson Academy and to authorize the District to withdraw up to the sum of \$225,000 from the existing School Building Construction, Reconstruction, Capital Improvements and Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

(The funds for this article come from existing money in the District's Capital Reserve Fund, not from additional taxes. This article, therefore, will not increase the 2010 tax rate.)

Recommended by the School Board 6-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-1

On a motion by Mrs. Rochford, to put the article six on the ballot as written, seconded by Mr. Paone.

Mr. La Salle provided a history of renovations to the kitchens in the district over the past ten years. He noted the Crabtree report and the efforts by the district to improve the kitchens within the district.

Mrs. Martin of Sandown inquired if the district retained a food service management company and specific contract information. Mr. La Salle clarified that Café Services runs the food service programs and then he provided basic information on the contract.

The moderator solicited questions and comments, having none he directed article six be placed on the ballot as written.

A motion by Michelle O'Neil to restrict reconsideration of article six, seconded by John Paone. The motion passed by voice vote.

Article Seven

Moderator Sargent read article six:

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District accept reports of agents, auditors, and committees as written in the 2009 Annual Report? (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED)

The moderator solicited questions and comments, having none he directed article seven be placed on the ballot as written.

A motion by Elizabeth Kosta to restrict reconsideration of article seven, seconded by Arlene Champey. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Having no other business to present Moderator Sargent adjourned the Deliberative Session at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen Phinney
District Clerk