

Timberlane Regional School Board

Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow and Sandown
New Hampshire

TRSB Meeting
January 22, 2009

Performing Arts Center
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

At the office of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Baldwin called the meeting of the Timberlane Regional School District School Board to order at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Baldwin led the pledge of allegiance.

Timberlane Regional School Board Roll Call

Lori Aubrey, William Baldwin (Chair), Stephen Brown (Vice-Chair), Arlene Champey, Robert Collins, Elizabeth Kosta, Michael Mascola, John Paone, Lisa Withee and Joseph Delfino (Student Representative)

Administrators Present:

Richard La Salle	Superintendent of Schools
Charles Coker	Director of Secondary Education
George Stokinger	Business Administrator

Approval of Minutes

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

- **Voted:** To approve the minutes of the December 4, 2008 non-public session and the January 8, 2009 regular meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board.
- **Having no further discussion the motion passed eight in favor and one abstention (Mrs. Withee).**

Delegations and individuals

School Report

Mr. Delfino informed the public that students are concerned over the number of days that school has not been in session due to the inclement weather.

He then reported that the wrestling, basketball and indoor track teams are off to a good start this year. The play "West Side Story" is scheduled for May. He then reminded the public to come and enjoy the school dance scheduled for January 31, 2009.

Current

2009-2010 School Calendar

Mr. La Salle reviewed the current 2008-2009 school year calendar. He noted the challenges the District will need to address this year due to the number of days that school had not been in session due to weather conditions.

He acknowledged his concern with the current format of the school calendar that builds in makeup days at the end of the school year. Mr. La Salle would like a calendar that provides students with continuity of instructions by allowing time for makeup days in the same time frame as the days missed. He also proposes reducing early release days and providing a fixed-date graduation day.

He then presented a draft of a calendar that would provide forty-five days of instruction after which the students would have a small break, similar design to a college schedule. The school year would begin before Labor Day and breaks would be allowed at the end of each semester. Columbus Day would be designated a school day and April vacation would fall early in the month allowing the opportunity to build in makeup days at a time the days were missed instead of impacting the end of the school year. This is consistent with the instructional time frame. This option would stabilize the semesters and provide a set date for graduation and the last day of school.

Mr. La Salle stated he would like the Board's and the public's input on this calendar and if the consensus is to move forward, he would present the new format for the next school calendar.

The Board discussed their concerns for the vocational and music students' schedule that may need additional consideration. Mr. La Salle suggested an online survey for families to voice their thoughts on the proposed change to the school calendar as well as a notice to be sent home with the elementary packets.

Member email addresses

Mr. Baldwin received a request inquiring if the personal email addresses of Board members should/could be advertised on the TRSB site for the public as another method of communication. A discussion ensued.

Mr. La Salle clarified that the legal authority of the school board is to speak as one unit and not individually. Additionally, responding to an individual could imply a promise without authority since email is accepted as a public record.

The current procedures in place are for the protection of the Board. The current procedure for email is that all emails are sent to the Board chairperson, who responds and copies the Board on the response. This process keeps all members informed and the single point of contact for all emails.

The Board would like to have the Policy Committee review the policy and present any changes for consideration at a public meeting scheduled for February. Until that time the process will remain the same for all emails.

Awarding of the Septic Bid

Mr. Stokinger reported that on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 the Septic Bids were opened in the presence of the following individuals;

Richard La Salle	Superintendent of Schools
Lisa Withee	TRSB Member
Kathleen Smith	Assistant Business Administrator
George Stokinger	Business Administrator
James Hughes	Director of Facilities

Mr. Stokinger reported that four bids were received with lowest bid from Busby Construction: Bids ranged from \$130,720 to \$178,500. Mr. Hughes verified that Busby Construction understood the scope of the work that is required and that the time line for this project can be met.

The acceptance of this bid would bring the total project cost to an estimated range of \$147,000 to \$160,000 including the engineering drawings that were submitted to the state as well as test sites and electrical costs.

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

- **Voted:** To accept the bid of Busby Construction for the replacement of the septic system at the Timberlane Regional High School.
- **Having no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.**

The bid process was reviewed by Mr. La Salle, starting with the hiring of the engineering firm, Civil Construction Management Inc. who designed the new septic system at the high school.

Upon complete of the approved design, an RFP was created and five firms were identified as being able to provide the service necessary for this project.

Four of the five firms responded to the RFP by submitting a bid for the project. The sealed bids were open in the group setting on Tuesday, January 20, 2009.

Mr. La Salle reported he had concerns that the fields would not be in an acceptable condition for the upcoming sports season due to the construction. He presented options to the Board with the first being to close the fields and play all games offsite. The second option would be to construct three of five fields, utilizing the field area behind the middle school for team practice only but play on another field. A third option would have Busby Construction finish grade and re-seed the left field and the center and right fields as well as improve the entire outfield.

A discussion ensued and the Board asked for a cost estimate of option three. Mr. La Salle clarified that this is a separate consideration from the septic project since it is for the fields and not the septic system.

The Board expressed their concern for having this project completed but then not being able to properly water the area to produce the desired field conditions. Mr. Hughes clarified water cannon that is currently owned by the District will be repaired and used to water the baseball fields. This would provide the opportunity to bring certain fields up to an acceptable condition for sports.

The finish grade project would be completed when the grounds are ready for that process. The septic system project is expected to be completed in a few weeks.

Administrators Report

Mr. Coker reported that Mr. Straunge and Mr. Gallant's English class poems were published on a magazine website. Congratulations to all the students and staff who worked hard to achieve results that are recognized by all.

Personnel

Mr. La Salle recommended accepting the retirement request of
Steven Cooper – TRMS Social Studies Teacher (with the District for 35 years)

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

- **Voted:** To accept with regret the retirement request of Steven Cooper – TRMS Social Studies Teacher (with the District for 35 years)
- **Having no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Reports

Mr. Collins reminded the public of the Evening with Timberlane at Danville Elementary that is scheduled for January 28, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Mrs. Champey noted the next policy committee meeting is scheduled at 4:30 PM on February 11th at the SAU office. She also attended the transition committee meeting.

Mr. Brown attended the community relations committee meeting and the New Hampshire School Board Delegate Assembly in Concord, NH.

Mrs. Aubrey attended the facilities and safety committee meetings for the community and District.

Mrs. Withee also attended the facilities committee meeting and thanked café services for their support for the District during the ice storm; they created over 600 meals during that time for Danville when their kitchen was not working properly.

Mrs. Kosta attended the strategic planning and curriculum committee meetings.

Mr. Baldwin attended the New Hampshire School Board Delegate Assembly with Mr. Brown.

Other

Mr. La Salle noted that the District is checking to see if funds are available for generators for the schools. He also reported that the NECAP results were released on Tuesday, January 20th and are currently being

analyzed by staff. He is anticipating a positive improvement with some concern for the high school results.

He reminded the public of the Deliberative Session scheduled on Thursday, February 5th at the PAC to begin at 7:00 PM. Also, the deadline for candidates filing for the budget committee and/or school board is January 30, 2009.

Mr. Mascola asked for an update of the consultant information at the next meeting.

Vendor and Payroll Registers

Complete

Having no other business to present Mr. Baldwin adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Danahy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Nancy Danahy
TRSB Clerk