

Timberlane Regional School Board

Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow and Sandown
New Hampshire

Minutes of the Deliberative Session February 5, 2009

Call to Order

At the Timberlane Performing Arts Center, Moderator Barry Sargent called the February 5, 2009 Deliberative Session to order at 7:05 PM and then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Timberlane Regional School Board members present: Lori Aubrey, William Baldwin (Chair), Stephen Brown (Vice-Chair), Arlene Champey, Robert Collins, Elizabeth Kosta, Michael Mascola and Lisa Withee.

Absent: John Paone

Budget Committee members present: Charles Balanoff (Chair), Darice Collie, Elizabeth Quigley, Len Mullen, Michelle O'Neil (Vice Chair), Lisa Lambert and Catherine Zerba

Absent: Jennifer Suech and Margaret Winn.

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

Moderator Sargent reviewed the rules of the assembly for the public.

Moderator Sargent read the following list of non-voters that may speak to make presentation at this Deliberative Session.

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| Richard La Salle | Superintendent of Schools |
| George Stokinger | Business Administrator |
| Peter Bronstein | District Legal Counsel |
| Kelli Killen | Director of Elementary Education |
| Charles Coker | 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. Quigley, seconded by Mrs. O'Neil

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

Moderator Sargent read the first and second sessions of the annual meeting, noting each towns voting times and locations. The voting times were clarified for Danville, who will now vote from 8 am to 7 pm and Plaistow will now vote from 7 am to 8 pm.

Review of the proposed Warrant and 2009-2010 Budget

Article One

Moderator Sargent outlined the Election of Officers that will be voted on at the March election. He noted that Atkinson, Plaistow and Sandown will elect one school board member each. The budget committee members' vacancies are one Atkinson member for a two year term and one three-year position each for Atkinson, Plaistow and Sandown.

Article Two

Moderator Sargent read article two and then introduced Mr. Balanoff who presented the proposed operating budget that voters will consider in March. He noted the default budget of \$60,525,404 and the proposed budget of \$60,628,376 stating the small difference of \$102,972. He noted the major budget factors include the increase from last year for salaries and benefits, instruction related costs, facilities and other programs. Mr. Balanoff expressed his appreciation to Catherine Zerba for her six years and Elizabeth Quigley for her ten years of service to the District. Residents from Danville and Sandown voiced their opinion regarding the proposed budget.

On a motion by Mrs. Quigley, seconded by Mrs. O'Neil

- **Voted:** To approve article two and place it on the ballot as written.
- **Having no further discussion the motion passed unanimously**

Article Three

Moderator Sargent read article three and then introduced Mr. La Salle who presented the reasoning for proposed warrant article three, the Sandown consolidation. He explained the education logic and cost savings for the District. He clarified the benefits to the community and illustrated the cost savings of the entire consolidation project. The article proposes a total of \$455,00 to fund the planning, design, engineering, including wetland and geological studies as well as permitting for an approximately 20,000 square foot addition to Sandown North Elementary School.

Residents from Sandown voiced their concern regarding cost, additional information, wetland considerations, and septic needs as well as per student costs. Additional residents voiced their concern regarding the current plan design at Sandown North Elementary School and the need for athletics fields and access points for the school. Residents inquired about future enrollments studies and the use of Sandown Central School when all students attend Sandown North Elementary School. Mr. La Salle clarified that the school and land belong to the District and not any specific town and that the decision regarding the building would be made by the towns with consideration given to the Town of Sandown.

Ms. Donna Green from Sandown presented an amendment to article three;

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$400,000 to fund planning, design, engineering, including wetlands and geological studies for an approximately 20,000 square foot addition to Sandown North Elementary School with related internal upgrades and site work? This is a special non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until the planning, design and engineering process is complete or by June 30, 2015, whichever is earlier.

A discussion ensued.

A standing vote was taken where 29 residents voted in favor of the proposed amendment and 34 residents for against the proposed amendment. The amendment failed.

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

- **Voted:** To approve article three and place it on the ballot as written.
- **Having no further discussion the motion passed unanimously**

Article Four

Moderator Sargent read article four regarding the Capital Reserve Fund and the proposed appropriation for up to \$100,000 to be placed in the School Building Construction, Reconstruction, Capital Improvement and Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund. He noted that the funds for this article come from the 2008-2009 school budget surplus, not from additional taxes.

On a motion by Mrs. Champey, seconded by Mrs. O'Neil

- **Voted:** To approve article four and place it on the ballot as written.
- **Having no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.**

Article Five

Moderator Sargent read article five which addresses the distribution of the annual report. He noted that a savings is proposed of approximately \$10,000 per year. This would be achieved if the annual report was not mailed to each resident of all four towns. The annual report instead would be placed on the District website and hard copies would be made available at the Superintendent's office for any resident wishing to have one. Residents from Danville and Atkinson

expressed their opinion on the distribution of the annual report. Their concern is that not all residents have access to a computer, the internet or transportation as well as the cost savings proposed.

Mr. William Bennett from Atkinson presented the following amendment to article five;

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District not change the way it distributes its annual report.

A voice vote was taken, and the assembly did not support this amendment. The amendment failed.

Mrs. Champey expressed her thoughts on the article by stating that when this article was considered it was put on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Mr. Roger Moore from Danville presented the following amendment to article five;

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District change the way it distributes its annual report by posting it on the District website and making hard copies of the report available at the Superintendent's Office and district town halls in lieu of mailing copies to all district residents, thereby saving upwards of \$10,000 or more per year?

A voice vote was taken, and the assembly supported this amendment. The amendment passed.

On a motion by Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Mrs. O'Neil

- **Voted:** To approve article five and place it on the ballot with amendment as stated.
- **Having no further discussion the motion passed unanimously**

Article Six

Moderator Sargent read article six which was then addressed by Mr. La Salle who noted the purpose of this article is to continue the practice of placing a notation at the end of each proposed article showing the School Board's and Budget Committee's recommendation of that article.

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

- **Voted:** To approve article six and place it on the ballot with amendment as stated.
- **Having no further discussion the motion passed unanimously**

Article Seven

Mr. Baldwin read article seven which addresses the general acceptance of reports from agents, auditors and committees as written in the 2008 annual report.

On a motion by Mrs. Quigley, seconded by Mrs. Lambert

- **Voted:** To approve article seven and place it on the ballot as written.
- **Having no further discussion the motion passed unanimously**

Other

Having no other business to present Moderator Sargent adjourned the meeting at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nancy Danahy
TRSB Clerk