

DATE: 9/4/2019

Executive Summary

High School Democrats Association (HSDA) Club

Students have contacted the high school administration to establish a chapter of the HSDA at Timberlane Regional High School, to be called the Timberlane High School Democrats. The stated purpose of the chapter will be “to increase political participation, support the Democratic Party, and encourage youth activism within our high school, our community, and our state for members of our high school and community.” The club membership is open to any student identifying as a Democrat within the Timberlane Regional High School, or home school student residing in our district. The club will seek and advisor and meet the expectations of all high school clubs and organizations.

The Equal Access Act (Section 4071) ensures that students can participate in a “limited open forum,” such as after school meetings. The act also states that schools “cannot deny students access to a ‘limited open forum’ on the basis of religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.”

The high school administration will be meeting with students over the next week to set up this club. While the administration recognizes the potential for controversy as this club becomes actively engaged in club activities, the door is open for similar clubs and organizations to become established. There is educational value in student involvement in the political discourse and process of our towns, state and nation.

Respectfully submitted by:

Donald Woodworth