

The Timberlane Regional School District's Governance Team is comprised of the 9 School Board members and the Superintendent of Schools. Each of the four towns within Timberlane are represented and form our cohesive Board where town affiliations fade behind the Timberlane students and what's best for them.

During the 2011-2012 school year, we are elated to report, Sandown North Elementary School was awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award under the High Performing School category. This is an amazing honor for the Timberlane District and even more amazing, knowing there were only 266 schools nationwide recognized and only one in the entire state of New Hampshire. We are extremely proud of and fortunate to be working with the administration, teachers, staff, students and community of Sandown North Elementary School! Congratulations can't be said enough.

Conversely, the 2011-2012 school year was also a sobering one with the announcement that two of our five elementary schools along with the Middle School and High School were designated Schools in Need of Improvement (SINI). The Timberlane Regional School District was also designated a District in Need of Improvement (DINI). The determination of this status is based on the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) exam, taken by all students Grades three through eight and eleven in the subject areas of Reading and Math as well as Science in Grades four, eight and eleven and Writing in Grades five, eight and eleven. Every two years the threshold by which any school can obtain Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is increased significantly on a march toward requiring "proficiency" of all students, as mandated by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, better known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). If any school does not make AYP for two consecutive years, they are given SINI status. Similarly, if the district as a whole does not make AYP for two consecutive years, the District is given DINI status.

While the value and accuracy of the NECAP exam has been challenged, and many question the real world meaning of a school or district "in need of improvement" the Timberlane Governance Team takes these designations very seriously. While not perfect, the NECAP exam and AYP determinations are the only third party objective means by which our schools are compared to the rest of the state. Consistent and steady progress of all of our students is of the utmost importance and is reflected in the work that was done during the 2011-2012 academic year.

While many goals were met and tasks accomplished, some of the most significant include laying the foundation for the Freshman Academy; beginning the establishment of "common assessments" at all grade levels and subject areas throughout the high school; negotiation of and passage of a one year agreement with the Timberlane Teacher's Association (TTA); and signing a contractual agreement with a new food service program in an effort to make our children's meals at school more nutritious. We also accepted extremely generous donations from the Timberlane community. New goal posts were installed, donated by the Timberlane Football Boosters and the kickball field at Danville Elementary was given a major and overdue overhaul donated by the Danville PTA to name a couple.

This academic year was also a reflective one for the School Board as we completed our first ever self-evaluation creating the basis for our 2012-2013 School Board goals. Through this process School Board

members discovered areas we needed to improve upon. From this information measurable goals with timelines were adopted, creating a completely transparent and tangible path toward their completion.

While Timberlane saw the departure of the Superintendent Mr. LaSalle, long standing Board member William Baldwin of Atkinson and Board member Lou Porcelli of Sandown, we also welcomed two new members Kate Delfino of Atkinson and Roger Barczak of Sandown. Our newest members have proven to be thoughtful, inquisitive and intelligent individuals who will continue to enhance our Governance Team for years to come.

Looking ahead to 2012-2013 and beyond with our newly hired Superintendent, Dr. Earl Metzler, the Timberlane Governance Team is in a strong position with superb leadership to truly transform our schools into high performing academic institutions where excellence is celebrated and each and every student's academic growth is paramount.

Please join us at our School Board meetings the first and third Thursday evenings of every month during the academic year. Meeting information and important Timberlane documents can be found online at: <https://public.timberlane.net/sau/trsb/default.aspx>. Emails to the Board are welcome at trsb@timberlane.net.

Thank you for your trust and support.