



TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting

September 22, 2022

7:00 PM

Call to Order

7:05 PM

Roll Call taken by Kerrie Ward

Present: Todd McCormick, Sue Sherman, Kristi Auclair, Mark Sherwood, Michael Mascola, Karen White

Not in Attendance: Kathryn Consalvo, Sierra Dolce, Julie Hammond

Administrators Present: Maria Watkins, CFO/Business Administrator

Karen White- Lead the Pledge of Allegiance

Michael Mascola motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 25, 2022

Mark Sherwood seconds the motion

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from August 25, 2022

4-0-2

In Favor: Todd McCormick, Sue Sherman, Kristi Auclair, Mark Sherwood

Abstained: Karen White, Michael Mascola

New Business:

School Board Budget Presentation – Steve Finnegan



School Chair Steve Finnegan presents the school board budget for FY2024. Steve highlights that the largest increase is for legal fees in the amount of \$25,000.00. The overall budget has an increase of \$990.00.

Sue Sherman initiates a discussion on the legal fees line.

Steve Finnegan and Maria Watkins point out that we also had four negotiations last year.

Sue Sherman emphasizes that she hopes the negotiations go well and are fair to the employees but hope that we start to trend down in that spending line.

Maria Watkins clarifies that there were no school board conferences in the last two years. She also points out that Superintendent Kellan is pushing to ask questions before anyone calls the legal team to be able to cut down on spending on that line.

Steve Finnegan clarifies for this year the board and the Superintendent have an understanding that the legal team will only be used when absolutely necessary.

Todd McCormick asks why the “other expenses” budget line was cut down by 15,000.

Steve and Mark state that the board would like to keep a level funded budget and to go by actual money spent.

Steve also states that the board is firm they want to be mindful of the taxpayer dollars we spend and not over budget for things the district doesn't need.

Technology Budget Presentation – Ken Henderson

Ken Henderson opens his presentation by stating that he historically presented two budgets that we have consolidated into one budget. The overall decrease for the technology budget is (\$21,176.00). Ken initiates a discussion on the budget lines changes +/- \$1,000.00.

Todd McCormick gives a shoutout to Dean Zanello for digitizing old VHS tapes for the district.

Michael Mascola inquiries about the high school signage.



Dean Zanello states that there will be digital signage in the middle school and the high school in the welcome centers, the café. It would be customized content on the screens for each of the schools.

Michael Mascola asks a question about the Chromebooks. What happens with them when they need to be upgraded?

Ken Henderson explains that elementary Chromebooks stay in the schools. When the kids get into 6th grade they get a new Chromebook and turn them back in to the school. When the kids get into 9th grade they get a new Chromebook and they end up keeping that when they graduate.

Todd McCormick asks the question as to why Ken needs a decrease when last year the budget was slightly overspent.

Ken Henderson explains that the district has done huge projects in the past couple years that made the budget go over a little bit. We don't have many huge projects coming up.

Administrative Report: Maria Watkins

Maria Watkins reports that the district is in budget mode. All the principals and directors are working on their budgets. The district is also in the process of negotiating four unions. Tomorrow at the football game there will be a food drive, make sure to bring cans and donate if you attend.

Maria also points out that we swapped the SAU budget and the Transportation budget for the technology budget tonight.

Strategic Planning: Sue Sherman

At the last strategic planning meeting they compared the old strategic plan with other district's strategic plans to start the process. Sue also states that the committee needs more public members along with teachers and other staff. The next strategic planning meeting on Wednesday September 28th at 4:30 pm.

Kristi Auclair asks how many members of the public they are looking to join the committee.



Todd McCormick initiates a discussion on the facility tours that have ended. We had a good amount of budget committee and school board members attend the tours, next year the committee will work on getting more of the public to attend. Todd points out our maintenance crews are amazing and keep our buildings immaculate.

School Board Report:

The school board has been busy with negotiations and policy and procedure implementation. A lot of the policies are severely outdated, so the focus is getting those up to date.

Other Business:

Maria Watkins thanks the committee for their kind words to our maintenance and custodial staff.

Sue Sherman talks about the retirement party held on Wednesday at Zorvino's for the 2020 and 2021 retirees. It was a great event with good turnout, and everyone had a great time. They are looking at holding another one in the spring.

Future Agenda:

On October 13th the elementary school principals will be at the meeting to present their proposed budgets.

Michael Mascola mentions that the budget committee is looking Plaistow resident to join the budget committee until March of 2023. The committee can use the help. The budget committee forms the budget in about 4 months leading up to budget season.

Michael Mascola requests that the school board also mention the budget committee vacancy at their next meeting and initiates a discussion on the proposed joint budget committee and school board meeting tentatively scheduled for December 8th.

Michael Mascola initiates a discussion on the NH Voucher Program and requests that we see if anyone from the state or NHSBA can come talk to us about the program and its financial impact on the district.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM by Todd McCormick

Minutes submitted by: Kerrie Ward