

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting
December 21, 2020
7:00 PM

Teleconference via Webinar Link

Call to Order

7:01 PM Chairman Todd McCormick opened the meeting of the Timberlane Regional School District Budget Committee Meeting with the reading of the Written Letter from the Governor that states the following:

Check list to ensure meetings are compliant with right to know law during the State of Emergency. As chair of TRSD Budget.Com board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of Covid19 Pandemic in according with governance emergency order #12 pursuant to executive order 2020-04 this public body is authorized to meet electronically. There is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's emergency order. However, in accordance with emergency order, I am confirming that we are:

A: Providing public access to meeting by audio and video utilizing a zoom webinar platform where all members of the board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during the meeting. The public has access to contemporaneously listen and view by logging into www.timberlane.net/zoombudcom.

B: We have given notice to the public of necessary informative for accessing this meeting. This information has been provided along with agenda and posted to the board website. www.timberlane.net.

C: We have provided a phone number for public to alert public body during meeting if there are problems with access. That phone number is (603) 382-6541 extension 3955.

D. We will adjourn the meeting and reschedule if public is unable to access the meeting. Additionally, all votes that are taken during this meeting should be done by roll call vote. We will begin meeting by roll call attendance. When member states presence they must also state if anyone is in the room during this meeting which is required under the Right to Know Law. That concludes.

Roll Call taken by Jhalise Morales

Present: Kristi Auclair, Peter Bealo, Brian Boyle, Steven Finnegan, Julie Hammond, Michael Mascola, Todd McCormick, Susan Sherman and Phil Sherwood.

Not in Attendance: Cathleen Gorman

Administrators Present: Geoff Dowd, CFO/Business Administrator, Maria Watkins, Business Operations Coordinator & Dr. Brian Cochrane, Interim Superintendent

Julie Hammond – Lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion: To accept approval of minutes for the Regular Meeting on December 10, 2020. By, Sue Sherman, 2nd by Phil Sherwood. The motion passed 7-0-2. Steven Finnegan and Michael Mascola abstained.

Correspondence:

Laurie Herchenroder, TSSU President-Written correspondence requesting clarification on paraeducator positions included in reductions.

Delegations and individuals:

Coral Hampe of Danville, TTA President- Fears there was minimal public discussion regarding impact of staff reductions.

Sarah Scanlan of Danville- Removing FLES program will impact future opportunities for students as 47% of the United States speaks Spanish as a primary or secondary language. Hopes other cuts can be made that do not eliminate the FLES program.

Administrative Report:

Dr. Brian Cochrane- It has been a difficult year going through COVID which has negatively impacted health and income. The charge of the Budget Committee and School Board is to allocate funds and resources to find a balance and how to move forward. I look forward to helping anyway I can.

Geoff Dowd- I am overly impressed with staff as they have taken on new roles and responsibilities. Our staff has done a great job.

Maria Watkins- I second Dr. Cochrane and Geoff, I am extremely thankful to staff that have tirelessly helped for moving forward for this year. They have made it possible for our kids to have the most normal year as possible and doing the best for the kids.

Reports of Committees:

Julie Hammond-Superintendent Search Committee meeting again 12/23/2020.

Sue Sherman-CIP Committee has not met.

Brian Boyle-Approximately three weeks ago, the School Board directed the Superintendent to come up with \$1.5-\$2 million dollars in cuts as we are losing about \$1.6 million in state revenue. Staff did a great job during presentations and this was an in-dept discussion and was not taken lightly by the

administration. The School Board requested a task and the Superintendent overachieved. Every year is different and this year we were hit with unexpected increases. HVAC RFP has gone out and vendor has begun testing and balancing next week.

Unfinished Business:

Timberlane Regional School District Proposed Reductions-Geoff Dowd reviewed the TRSD 2021-2022 Proposed Budget Reductions. 12/17/2020 TRSB recommended \$2,000,000 in Program and Personnel related reductions. This includes 11 Open and Vacant FTE positions.

Sue Sherman-These 11 FTE positions have not been posted or advertised?

Geoff Dowd-Yes, that is correct.

Phil Sherman- Has there been a directive in this administration or the prior administration to not post these positions?

Dr. Brian Cochrane- I have not been given that directive.

Peter Bealo-Three TRHS teachers, in what areas?

Dr. Brian Cochrane-That would depend on registration and need. As a district, we are going down 2% per year.

Peter Bealo- I would like a guarantee that those cuts are not cutting the "Project Lead the Way" out of the Highschool.

Dr. Brian Cochrane-There has been no mention on "Project Lead the Way." We are looking more at core subject areas as there is flexibility that will not impact the programs.

Peter Bealo- The NESDEC Report suggests Highschool enrollment is going down but Elementary is going up.

Dr. Brian Cochrane- The State average is dropping 1% a year and the District is dropping at about 2% a year. We are managing in real time.

Steven Finnegan- When talking about open and vacant positions, what are the challenges of bringing these positions back at some point?

Brian Boyle- If a position is eliminated, it can be brought back if there is a need in the future.

Todd McCormick-Presented the NESDEC report-this report suggests enrollment is stagnant with a gradual incline District-wide.

Dr. Brian Cochrane- I can run a class size report at the Elementary Schools. Compared to other districts, we are in favorable positions regarding class size.

Sue Sherman- 2 FTE, Technology Education/ Support, can you clarify what the positions are?

Dr. Brian Cochrane- We haven't drilled down to that level yet. We are not at the point at identifying down to that level.

Todd McCormick- I am a parent of a child in FLES and I am impressed. I have not heard anything negative and how can we test this program if the recipients we can test are in sixth grade during a pandemic year.

Dr. Brian Cochrane- This is one of the things under consideration. I was instructed to work with Administration to come up with ideas.

Todd McCormick-Do we have a rough number of what has been invested over the course of seven years?

Geoff- At least \$400,000 not including current development and instructional staff.

Dr. Brian Cochrane-Back to your point about FLES, I do not believe we have any programs in the district that I would identify as not working.

Brian Boyle- It is all about a bottom line as we are a Public-School District. The money has to come from somewhere. We cannot have everything and keep spending the money.

Todd McCormick- We are all on the same page to put something holistic out to the public. If we can agree as a committee to reduce about \$2,000,000 it does not have to come out of one place. Last year it came from multiple places, holistically.

Brian Boyle- 2/3 of the budget is Staffing and Benefits, so you are seeing \$2,000,000 pulled from that.

Phil Sherwood- Looking at it capitalistically, our kids will be ill-prepared for the future if they are not bilingual. I am not sure the cuts need to be as deep as they are.

Geoff Dowd-Presented 12/18/2020 Budget Committee recommendations of \$1,000,000 in non-Program and non-Personnel related reductions based on trends.

Motion:	To reduce TRSD 2021-2022 Proposed Budget by \$1,600,000 by reducing the Open and Vacant positions and the Capital budget. By, Peter Bealo. No 2nd. Motion fails.
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Sue Sherman- If we reduce TRSD 2021-2022 Proposed Budget by \$1,893,153 for a total of \$74,318,918 which results in a 1.36% increase over 2020-2021 TRSD Budget. This is close to the expectation without affecting staffing.

Motion:	To reduce TRSD 2021-2022 Proposed Budget by \$1,893,152 for a total of \$74,318,918. By, Sue Sherman, 2 nd by Peter Bealo. The motion passed 7-2-0. Brian Boyle and Julie Hammond voted No.
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New Business:

Confirmation of Public Hearing via Zoom confirmed.

Other Business:

Sue Sherman is official alternate BudCom representation in Superintendent Search Committee.

Todd McCormick adjourned meeting at 9:31PM.

Future Agenda and Dates:

Thursday, January 14, 2021 – Public Hearing Proposed Budget - ZOOM 7:00pm

Tuesday, February 4, 2021 – Deliberative Session - TRHS Gymnasium 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jhalise Morales
Recording Secretary

The meeting can be viewed by following this link:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/255893/video/493590103>

Approved by the Budget Committee Meeting 01/14/2021