

Timberlane Regional School District Budget Committee
Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, and Sandown

Regular Meeting
November 4, 2013

SAU 55
Plaistow, New Hampshire

Call to Order:

Chairperson Spero called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Present: Mr. Spero, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Weymouth, Mr. Grosky Mrs. Green, and Mr. Blair.
Absent: Mrs. Rothwell, Mr. Francoeur and Ms. Gorman.

Also present from Administration: Superintendent, Dr. Earl Metzler, Business Administrator, Mr. George Stokinger and Mr. James Hughes, Director of Facilities. There were also other school administrators in audience for the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. O'Neil made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Blair to approve the minutes of October 24, 2013 with corrections made. Vote: Unanimous.

Correspondence:

Mrs. O'Neil stated she saw the email from Ms. Gorman regarding the Tripod Survey but did not have time to read it. Mr. Heffernan stated it must have come in today as he had not had a chance to read it either.

Delegations & Individuals: None.

Administrative Report: None.

Reports of Committees:

Mrs. O'Neil reported attending the final football game of the season. She stated the team played their heart out and the band sounded fabulous. Also the new scoreboard was used and it looked beautiful. Mrs. Green reported she found some interesting statistics on the State DOE website regarding the school tax rates for the State median and the various towns and districts. She reported that Timberlane appears to be out of line with the rest of the State. Dennis Heffernan reported all the fall sports teams at the High School with the exception of the football team, made it to the finals. Mr. Spero added the Middle School soccer teams and field hockey teams also made it to the play offs.

School Board Representative: None.

New Business:

Mr. Hughes was present to answer the many questions that were raised at the previous meeting regarding the Projects Budget. A lengthy question and answer period ensued regarding the proposed generator for the High School. Other Projects discussed were the upgrade for the

Building Management System, the improvements to the High School concession stand, the need for a new Capital Improvement Plan, the gym lighting project at Atkinson, and the water bubbler repair at Pollard. Dr. Metzler reported the School Board will be meeting on December 3, to discuss the Strategic Plan which encompasses a Capital Improvement Plan.

Items discussed in the Operating Budget of the Facilities Department were, increasing staff by one FTE; increases in the contracted services (3XX's) accounts; training for staff (certifications for pesticide, chemicals, asbestos etc.) and the purchase of a zero turn commercial mower and trailer for the HS Grounds Department. The HS Grounds staff will be able to travel to all the elementary schools and take care of the mowing which puts the elementary custodial staff back in the buildings. Mr. Hughes also reported the custodians were not interested in participating in the formation of the new union. Mr. Hughes left the meeting when all Facilities questions had been addressed at about 8:06 p.m.

Review of Recent Correspondence: Mrs. O'Neil referred back to questions brought up by Mrs. Caruso for discussion. Many of her questions were relative to the Curriculum Budget and the use of Turn It In.com. She also questioned where new initiatives show in the Budget. Dr. Metzler suggested inviting the Curriculum Directors in to address these concerns. He also stated Turn it In.com is a great way to train students as to what academic plagiarism is. The Committee also agreed to send an email to Mr. Woodworth to ask about the economics class Mrs. Caruso referred to in her email as not having a textbook, but a textbook is listed in the budget.

Mr. Stoking distributed a copy of the Revenue and Receipts report from Mr. DiBartolomeo from last year's discussion regarding the revenue earned by the Musicals. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding Student Activity Accounts and the current policies in effect to govern them. Principals, Mrs. Dayotis and Mrs. Barcelos both were asked to weigh in on the topic.

Mr. Stoking answered many questions regarding SERESC from the October 25, email. Membership and Fees paid to SERESC were also addressed. The Speech Pathology Budget was also discussed.

Mr. Stoking answered additional questions from the many emails correspondences he has received. Discussion continued regarding the costs to be listed in the Warrant Article for the new union. Only additional costs will be included in the proposed Warrant Article. 167 support staff petitioned to unionize over the summer. Dr. Metzler stated he cannot discuss details while there are ongoing negotiations.

Warrant article submission dates were discussed. Mrs. Green brought up for discussion, the likelihood for additional warrant articles for 2014-2015 and the impact they have on the Budget. A lengthy discussion ensued in regards to the timing of the proposed warrant articles as compared to the work being done on the Operating Budget by the Budget Committee. Mrs. O'Neil made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Blair to move the question. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Stoking explained warrant articles get added to the approved budget after the vote in March. If we are in the middle of a contract year, such as we are with the TTA, the increases are

added to the proposed Budget. Additional discussion about warrant articles continued for a few minutes.

As Mrs. Green requested, Mr. Stokinger distributed a list of professional associations the school district pays dues to.

2014-2015 Budget

Mr. Stokinger distributed Draft 1 of the 2014-2015 Budget. His reports included a Budget Recap Report (sorted two different ways), a Major Factors Report, a New Positions Report, the TRSD Function/Object Report and a pie graph showing the Proposed Budget broken down by Salaries, Benefits and Expenses. Mr. Stokinger reviewed the major factors driving the proposed 2015 Budget. The total Proposed Budget for Draft 1 is \$67,624,117 which is up 4% from the current year's approved Budget and Warrant Articles, of \$65,020,621.

Mrs. Green asked how the Fund Transfers affect the Budget. Mr. Stokinger explained the Fund Transfers are offset by the same amount of revenue. Most of the Fund Transfer is the Special Education IDEA Grant. Expenditure detail for grants is not included in the General Fund, and he wasn't sure why the State requires the School Districts to record Fund Transfers the way they do.

Other Business:

Mrs. Green brought up for discussion the new union collective bargaining and if the District is willing to negotiate participation in the NH Retirement System. She wants the Budget Committee to make a recommendation to the School Board to resist letting these support staff join the NH Retirement System. Mr. Stokinger stated that some support staff already belong to the NH Retirement System.

Mrs. O'Neil made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Green, to reduce the non-affiliated staff salary increase down to 2.5% from 3%, to be in line with the SAU Budget for 2014-2015. Vote: Five members voted in favor and two members oppose (Mrs. Green and Mr. Grosky). Dr. Metzler described how the merit raises will work and which employees will be reviewed with merit in mind and which will just receive an increase for 2014-2015.

Mrs. O'Neil requested the dollar equivalents for both the 2.5% and the .50% reduction amount.

Mrs. Green asked the percentage be calculated for the actual increase in the Budget if the SAU Budget was still part of the Timberlane Budget. It was estimated to change the increase to 5.5%.

Dr. Metzler discussed the increase in the health insurance line to cover more of our exposure and potential costs due to the Affordable Health Care Act; however this Budget is so large the total exposure does not need to be covered. The guaranteed maximum given by LGC is 5.4%. The health insurance line will be fine-tuned after Mrs. Danahy has a chance to calculate the current participants' at the new rates (using the GMR). Discussion ensued regarding how the plans work and when employees have the opportunity to be added to our group health insurance.

Future Meetings:

Thursday November 14, 2013, Tuesday November 26, 2013, Thursday December 12, 2013 and Thursday December 26, 2013.

Mr. Blair made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Smith
Recording Secretary